

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 May 2004 (13.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/039457 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A63B 69/36**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/034175

(22) International Filing Date: 27 October 2003 (27.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/421,749 28 October 2002 (28.10.2002) US
60/476,792 6 June 2003 (06.06.2003) US

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **PELZ, David** [US/US]; 1310 RR 620 South,
Suite B-1, Austin, TX 78734 (US).

(74) Agents: **SWEEDLER, Michael, J. et al.**; Darby & Darby
P.C., P.O. Box 5257, New York, NY 10150-5257 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,

GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

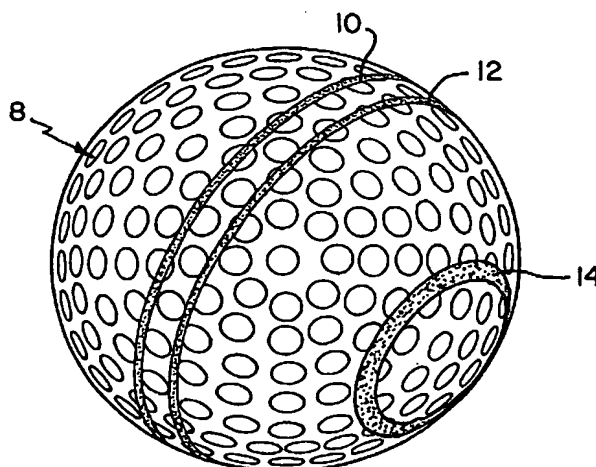
Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
8 July 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **GOLF BALL MARKING SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: In accordance with the invention, a golf ball (8) is marked with two equatorial o-rings (10,12) adjacent an equator of the ball and equally spaced therefrom, which are in a golfer's full view of the top side of the ball (8) when the ball (8) is accurately aligned to its desired initial starting line and a golfer is properly positioned to putt. The polar regions of the ball are also imprinted with a pattern which is essentially invisible to the golfer when properly positioned to putt. When the ball is aligned to a particular starting direction, and properly struck precisely and squarely and rolls purely in that starting direction, the equatorial o-rings (14) will roll without wobble, and the polar o-rings (14) will remain essentially invisible to the golfer. But when side spin is imparted to the ball at impact, the equatorial o-rings (circumferential lines) (14) will appear to wobble as the ball (8) rolls, and the polar o-rings (14) will become periodically visible and emphasize the appearance of wobble.

WO 2004/039457 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/34175

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A63B 69/36
US CL : 473/200,242,251,252,280

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 473/200,242,251,252,280

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X — Y	US 6,453,807 B1 (RAMEY) 24 September 2002 (24.09.2002), See Fig. 1 and entire document.	1 — 2-4
X — Y	US DES. 27,441 S (DUNN) 27 July 1897 (27.07.1897), see Figs. 1-2.	1 — 2-4
Y	US 6,422,949 B1 (BYRNE et al) 23 July 2002 (23.07.2002), see entire document.	1-12
Y	US 4,209,172 A (YAMAMOTO) 24 June 1980 (24.06.1980), see entire document.	1-12
Y	US 6,062,986 A (KAISE) 16 May 2000 (16.05.2000), see entire document.	1-12
Y	US 5,067,719 A (MOOK) 26 November 1991 (26.11.1991), see entire document.	1-4
Y	US 5,713,799 A (BALMAT) 03 February 1998 (03.02.1998), see entire document.	1-4



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 April 2004 (28.04.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 MAY 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Stephen Garbe

Telephone No. (703) 872-9301

Sheila H. Venev
Patent Specialist
Tech. Center 3700

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/34175

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4,603,862 A (CHEN) 05 August 1986 (05.08.1986), see entire document.	1-4
Y	US 2,709,595 A (VRIES) 31 May 1955 (31.05.1955), see entire document.	1-4